

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

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November 10, 1980

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TO: S/S - Mr. Tarnoff

FROM: HA - Patricia M. Derian

SUBJECT: List of Issues for Transition Briefing Papers

The perception exists that the Reagan Administration plans to reverse policies to promote respect for internationally recognized human rights. The human rights policy is based on domestic and international law and occupies a central place in U.S. foreign policy. The following list of issues will therefore require decisions during the 90-day period following January 20, 1981.

1. Bilateral Initiatives on Behalf of Human Rights

-- Continue prompt and vigorous diplomatic initiatives with regard to major human rights problems in communist countries. Countries requiring such action are: the USSR, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Poland, Romania, the People's Republic of China, Cuba, Vietnam, Kampuchea, Ethiopia, Mozambique and others.

-- Continue prompt and vigorous diplomatic initiatives with regard to major human rights problems in non-communist countries. Countries requiring such action are: South Africa, Liberia, South Korea (particularly to save the life and obtain the freedom of Kim Dae Jung), the Philippines, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Iraq, Syria, the Israel-occupied territories and others.

Failure to take action with regard to these countries will undermine the leadership role of the United States in the human rights area, and in many cases impact adversely on our national interest and security objectives.

2. Economic Assistance and Human Rights

-- Continue the systematic review of economic assistance and human rights by the Inter-Agency Committee on Human Rights and Foreign Assistance, chaired by the Deputy Secretary. This Committee and its Working Group regularly review bilateral economic assistance, IFI loans, Ex-Im and OPIC transactions with a view to ensuring that human rights concerns are fully taken into account in decisions made, as required by U.S. law and policy.

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3. Arms Transfers and Human Rights

-- Improve the mechanism in the Department of State for reaching decisions on arms transfers and human rights through the creation of a special body to systematically review such decisions, including the sale of police equipment, and ensure that human rights criteria are fully taken into account, as required by our law and policy.

4. Pending Decisions on Sales of Police Equipment and Lethal Military Equipment

-- Decide on pending sales of police equipment to the following countries with serious human rights problems: the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Ethiopia, the Philippines, Yugoslavia, Israel (West Bank).

-- Decide on pending sales of lethal military equipment and expanded military sales to the following countries with serious human rights problems: Haiti, El Salvador, Paraguay.

5. Multilateral Initiatives

-- Insist on full review of implementation of Basket III (human rights and humanitarian) issues at the Madrid CSCE Conference and promote the establishment of more effective machinery to implement the Helsinki Final Act.

-- Continue to strengthen international machinery for dealing with human rights issues (United Nations, Organization of American States, International Labor Organization, UNESCO) and promote the creation of regional human rights bodies.

6. Ratification of International Human Rights Treaties

-- Complete U.S. adherence to six major international human rights treaties through ratification. The six treaties currently before the Senate are: the Genocide Convention, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the American Convention on Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

7. Non-Governmental Organizations

Continue to cooperate with private non-governmental organizations engaged in programs and activities to strengthen the protection of human rights internationally.

8. Asylum Policy

-- Strengthen the asylum unit to enable it to deal with a rapidly increasing number of cases, for example Iranian, Nicaraguan and Cuban cases, among others.

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